

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Joint Resolution 16 (Senator Sfikas)

Finance

Insurance Coverage for Cancer Screening Tests

This joint resolution requests the State Council on Cancer Control to study the coverage of cancer screening tests by private and State insurance plans in Maryland. The study must include: (1) breast cancer; (2) cervical cancer; (3) colon and rectum cancer; (4) endometrium cancer; (5) oral cavity and pharynx cancer; (6) ovary cancer; (7) prostate cancer; and (8) skin cancer. In addition, the study must consider if the insurance plans cover specified screening tests at certain frequency for specified individuals. The council must report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 1998.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be absorbed within existing Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Currently, the State Council on Cancer Control is staffed by five individuals who are situated within the Community and Public Health Administration (CPHA) of DHMH. The council maintains the cancer registry for Maryland and council meetings are conducted once a month.

CPHA advises that general fund expenditures would increase by \$18,897 in fiscal 1999 only. This estimate reflects the cost of two full-time contractual Special Program Coordinator positions for five months to conduct the study required by the bill. The estimate also accounts for operating expenses.

Although the time frame within which the study must be conducted is short and staff resources for the council is limited to five full-time positions, it is assumed that additional resources and staff from other divisions or administrations within DHMH could be drawn upon to assist with the study. Consequently, the Department of Legislative Services advises that the bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Community and Public Health Administration), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 17, 1998
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